AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1.-34. (Canceled).

35. (Previously presented) A process for isolating maytansinol from a mixture containing unreduced and over-reduced maytansinoids by separating the maytansinol by normal-phase high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) on a chemically modified silica stationary phase.

36. (Currently amended) Maytansinol ~~prepared~~ isolated by the process of claim 35, wherein the isolated maytansinol is at least 90% pure, by weight.

37. (Previously presented) A cell-binding agent maytansinoid complex prepared by converting maytansinol prepared by the process of claim 35 into the cell-binding agent maytansinoid complex.

38. (Previously presented) The cell binding agent of Claim 37, wherein the cell-binding agent is an antibody.

39. (Previously presented) The process of claim 35, wherein the chemically modified silica is cyano-bonded silica.

40. (Currently amended) ~~Purified~~ A composition comprising maytansinol prepared by the process of claim 35, wherein the ~~purity of~~ maytansinol is present in an amount of at least 90% by weight, the remainder being impurities.

41. (Previously presented) The process of claim 35, further comprising converting the maytansinol prepared by the process into a cell-binding agent maytansinoid complex.

42. (Previously presented) A process for isolating maytansinol from a mixture containing unreduced and over-reduced maytansinoids by separating the maytansinol by large-scale preparative normal-phase high performance liquid chromotography (HPLC) on a chemically modified silica stationary phase.

43 - 45. (Canceled)

46. (Previously presented) The process of claim 42 wherein the chemically modified silica is cyano-bonded silica.

47. (Canceled)

48. (Previously presented) The process of claim 42 further comprising converting the maytansinol prepared by the process into a cell-binding agent maytansinoid complex.